

Measures:

Clinical Assessment Outcome Measures

Gingival status: The Gingival Index (GI) (Loe & Silness, 1963) was used to assess the presence of gingival inflammation around six surfaces of each tooth. The GI was described as: 0=no visual signs of inflammation; 1=slight change in color and texture of the gingiva but no bleeding; 2=visual sign of inflammation and bleeding upon swiping; 3=overt inflammation and spontaneous bleeding. A mean GI was calculated per participant.

Plaque Score: We used the O'Leary plaque control record (O'Leary, Drake, Naylor, 1972), which was developed as a dichotomous measure for plaque on the gingival third of each tooth surface. The supragingival bacterial plaque was assessed with the use of erythrosine disclosing solution on six surfaces of each tooth and calculated based on the number of surfaces stained positive for plaque divided by the total number of surfaces.